

## **Chapter 2.3.13 – Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy**

### **Article 2.3.13.2 point 1c)**

#### **Current text:**

c) importation of embryos/ oocytes potentially infected with a TSE;

#### **Suggested text:**

[c) importation of embryos/ oocytes potentially infected with a TSE;]

**Rationale:** Science has shown that properly washed embryos and oocytes have little risk, if any, of transmitting BSE. The Animal Health Code (AHC) Commission should either delete these as risk factors or qualify under what circumstances they may present a risk (eg. unwashed).

### **Article 2.3.13.8 point 3)**

**General Comment:** This section allows certain commodities to be traded without restriction regardless of the BSE status of a country/zone. One of these commodities is “protein-free” tallow. However, it allows for such tallow to have a “maximum level of impurities of 0.15% by weight”. Given the circumstantial evidence which indicates possible transmission of BSE via milk-replacer with added fat or contaminated tallow, the United States asks the AHC Commission to re-evaluate the safety of this impurity level.

### **Article 2.3.13.19 points 1) and 2a) and b)**

Although this section is not one being modified, the United States has found an inconsistency with it, and asks the AHC Commission to address it at its next meeting.

#### **Current text:**

Article 2.3.13.19.

- 1) The following commodities, and any commodity contaminated by them, should not be traded for the preparation of food, feed, fertilisers, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals including biologicals, or medical devices: brains, eyes, spinal cord, tonsils, thymus, spleen, intestines, dorsal root ganglia, trigeminal ganglia, skull and vertebral column, and protein products derived therefrom, from cattle over 6 months of age originating from countries with a high BSE risk. Food, feed, fertilisers, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals or medical devices prepared using these commodities should also not be traded.
- 2) The following commodities, and any commodity contaminated by them, should not be traded for the preparation of food, feed, fertilisers, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals including biologicals, or medical devices:

- a) brains, eyes, spinal cord, distal ileum, skull, vertebral column and protein products derived therefrom, from cattle, originating from a country or zone with a moderate BSE risk, that were at the time of slaughter aged over 6 months;
- b) brains, eyes and spinal cord, skull, vertebral column and protein products derived therefrom, from cattle, originating from a country or zone with a minimal BSE risk has been reported, that were at the time of slaughter aged over 30 months.

Food, feed, fertilisers, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals or medical devices prepared using the commodities listed in points a) and b) above should also not be traded.

**Suggested text:**

Article 2.3.13.19.

- 1) The following commodities, and any commodity contaminated by them, should not be traded for the preparation of food, feed, fertilisers, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals including biologicals, or medical devices: brains, eyes, spinal cord, tonsils, thymus, spleen, intestines, dorsal root ganglia, trigeminal ganglia, skull and vertebral column, and protein products derived therefrom, from cattle [over 6 months] of any age originating from countries with a high, moderate or minimal BSE risk. Food, feed, fertilisers, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals or medical devices prepared using these commodities should also not be traded.
- [2) The following commodities, and any commodity contaminated by them, should not be traded for the preparation of food, feed, fertilisers, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals including biologicals, or medical devices:
  - a) brains, eyes, spinal cord, distal ileum, skull, vertebral column and protein products derived therefrom, from cattle, originating from a country or zone with a moderate BSE risk, that were at the time of slaughter aged over 6 months;
  - b) brains, eyes and spinal cord, skull, vertebral column and protein products derived therefrom, from cattle, originating from a country or zone with a minimal BSE risk has been reported, that were at the time of slaughter aged over 30 months.

Food, feed, fertilisers, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals or medical devices prepared using the commodities listed in points a) and b) above should also not be traded.]

**[deleted text]**

**Rationale:** This section currently allows for certain very high risk commodities (eg. brain and spinal cord) from high risk BSE countries (point 1) or low and moderate risk BSE countries (points 2a and b)) to be traded for the manufacture of food, feed, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals. The United States strongly recommends that such high risk commodities not be traded from any age animal from any BSE risk country. As diagnostic techniques have improved, tissues which were previously thought to have no

infectivity, were shown to be infective (eg blood). Furthermore, this would be consistent with Article 2.3.13.18 which does not recommend the trading of *meat-and-bone meal* (a high risk material) from countries with minimal, moderate or high BSE risk.